AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A reproducing apparatus for reproducing digital video information, the apparatus comprising:

   a readout unit configured to read out from a recording medium compressed video and audio data compliant with MPEG format having a structure of sequential video information blocks in a predetermined number of frames;

   a separation unit configured to separate video data and audio data from the compressed video and audio data read out by the readout unit;

   an expansion unit configured to respectively expand the video data and the audio data separated by the separation unit;

   a video output unit configured to output the video data expanded by the expansion unit;

   an audio output unit configured to output the audio data expanded by the expansion unit;

   an operation unit including a high speed reproduction key for reproducing the compressed video and audio data in n-fold (where $n \geq 3$) speed; and

   a control unit configured to control the expansion unit, ~~in a case where~~ when the high speed reproduction key is operated, to reproduce the compressed video and audio data for a number of frames corresponding to the n-fold speed, alternating with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of a normal speed and a two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames.

2. (Currently Amended) The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a setting unit configured to variably set the predetermined number of frames to perform the reproduction in one of the normal speed [[or in]] and the two-fold speed in the high speed reproduction.

3. (Original) The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the setting unit comprises a setting key arranged in the operation unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a selection unit configured to alternatively select to reproduce in one of normal speed [[or in]] and two-fold speed for the predetermined number of frames in the high speed reproduction.

5. (Original) The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the selection unit comprises a setting key arranged in the operation unit.

6. (Currently Amended) A reproducing method for reproducing digital video information, the method comprising:

reading out from a recording medium compressed video and audio data compliant with MPEG format having a structure of sequential video information blocks in a predetermined number of frames;

separating video data and audio data from the compressed video and audio data read out;

expanding the separated video data and the separated audio data;

outputting the expanded video data and the expanded audio data;

controlling the expanding, ~~in a case where~~ when a high speed reproduction for reproducing the compressed video and audio data in n-fold (where $n \geq 3$) speed is selected, to reproduce the compressed video and audio data for a number of frames corresponding to the n-fold speed, alternating with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of normal speed and two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames.

7. (Currently Amended) The reproducing method as claimed in claim 6 further comprising variably setting the number of frames to perform the reproduction in one of the normal speed [[or in]] and the two-fold speed in the high speed reproduction.

8. (Currently Amended) The reproducing method as claimed in claim 6 further comprising alternatively selecting to reproduce in one of the normal speed [[or in]] and the two-fold speed for the predetermined number of frames in the high speed reproduction.

9. (New) The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compressed video and audio data is reproduced for a number of frames corresponding to the n-fold speed and alternated with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of the normal speed and the two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames until high speed reproduction is interrupted.

10. (New) The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the predetermined number of frames is set arbitrarily.

11. (New) The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the predetermined number of frames is set by operating the setting key.